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AN
ORATION,

DELIVERED AT

CHAPEL HILL,

ON WEDNESDAY, THE 23d JUNE, 1830;

The day preceding Commencement, at the University of
NORTH CAROLINA;

ACCORDING TO

THE ANNUAL APPOINTMENT

OF

THE TWO LITERARY SOCIETIES

BELONGING TO THE

UNIVERSITY.

BY THE HON. JOHN H. BRYAN.

NEWBERN:

PRINTED BY JOHN I. PASTEUR.

1830.



AN ORATION.



MY RESPECTED AUDIENCE:

IN pursuance of the compact made between the literary Societies of this Institution, I have been invited to address you. While I trust that I duly appreciate the honour of this invitation, I am also impressed with a deep sense of its delicacy and responsibility. To point the way to the goal of our being, to inculcate lessons of virtue and true wisdom, upon the rising generation, the future legislators and statesmen of the Republic, to excite into lasting flame the sparks of high and honourable ambition, would more comport with the zeal, than with the ability of your addresser.

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Could he discharge, with usefulness, the humble task of a just and faithful counsellor, to those who are annually emerging from the walls of this their alma mater, to engage in the pursuits, turmoils and occupations of human life; could he inspire them with that regard for the rights and feelings of their fellow men, and that devotion to their country's weal, which would make them upright as men, useful as citizens, honest as statesmen, pure and disinterested as patriots; he would feel that he had discharged that debt which every citizen owes to his country, and would rejoice in being the honoured instrument of public good.

It may seem an idle effort to urge, in this place, and to this assembly, any argument tending to shew the inestimable value of knowledge: but many who admit this proposition, without hesitation, are not governed in practice, by those principles

or rules of conduct, which follow necessarily from its admission. I trust, then, it may not seem a useless undertaking, to contemplate its proper effects upon the mind and heart of man, and upon the interests and happiness of society.

It has been remarked, that the infancy of man, the noblest of all God's creatures, is more feeble and helpless than that of any other animal. The early portion of our existence is spent in a dream-like state, when all things appear to us robed in the vestments of fancy, and reason is too imperfect to assert her sway. This is the period, too, when the mind, like yielding wax, is apt to receive those impressions, which frequently maintain their stubborn hold, in defiance of the dictates of our riper judgment, and against experience itself. How important, then, is it, that these early impressions should be stamped by the signet of truth and wisdom; that instead of operating as natural barriers to the acquisition of knowledge, they should facilitate our progress, and guide us in our way.

If it be asked, by whom are the tender heart and budding intellect, thus to be inspired with proper feeling, and illumined with the earliest rays of knowledge? I answer, by her only, whose love is competent to the task; by her, whose endearing title of mother, embraces the holiest and purest of human affections; whose voice and smile speak to the infant heart, and find there a ready and responsive echo.—Some of the most illustrious patriots and statesmen of all ages, have traced their greatness and glory to the judicious care of a devoted mother, and have felt and acknowledged, in their proudest moments, the vivid traces of her tender hand. The Theban patriot, who saved his country at Leuctra, regarded as one of the most gratifying results of his glorious achievement, that it would gladden the heart of his aged mother: and Americans may point with exultation to the Father of his country, whose virtues were nourished and cultivated by maternal discipline. When, in the progress of education, the family mansion, and the charms of home are exchanged for the habits and pursuits of college life, the youth finds himself in a novel, interesting, and to him, most

important state. He must now rely more upon himself, his judgment is called into action, and his principles are often put to the test. He finds his young associates not disposed to yield their esteem and regard to the adventitious circumstances of birth or fortune—he must earn a reputation. No where do we find a more truly republican community, than within the walls of an American college. The peculiar talent of each member is readily developed, and duly appreciated; magnanimity and disinterestedness are cheered and encouraged, while meanness and duplicity are detected and scorned. A generous emulation excites to an ardent pursuit of knowledge, and success is rewarded by those distinctions and honours, which the most ambitious have highly prized.

Let not those who have grown grey in what they deem higher, and more exalted pursuits, affect to look with indifference on the student's toils and honours. To the eye of enlightened judgment, the successful pursuit of science is far more glorious, and productive of happiness, than the attainment of laurels crimsoned with blood, or the most exalted political preferment.

The warrior views with delighted eye the glittering columns prepared for battle, and his ear drinks with avidity the martial sound of the trumpet, summoning to the conflict—the statesman, pale with care and anxious thought, smiles with secret satisfaction at the effects of his policy, and hugs to his bosom the fond hope that his laboured schemes will eventuate in splendid success. But what is the issue of a hundred victories? Go to the lonely tomb of the exile of St. Helena, and ask the shade of its one mighty tenant. The spell is dissolved, the illusion has vanished; and, as if touched by the spear of Ithuriel, the sad reality is disclosed in all its vanity and emptiness. He who created and dethroned Kings at his mere will and pleasure, and whose ambition a continent could not bound, was reft of his own sceptre, and confined to a small island, deprived of all his acquisitions, except those of the imperishable mind.

In this last scene, when the conqueror's robe was laid aside, and the voice of the flatterer no longer told its siren

talent, his early education, and the knowledge then acquired, remained, and stood by him as his firmest and most faithful wordly support and comfort.

If we trace the career of the statesman devoted to self-aggrandizement, are we conducted to a nobler, or more desirable end? He has doomed himself to contend with the prejudices of mankind; to enlighten the ignorant, and to allay their jealousies; to fix the wavering, and to reanimate the desponding. His operations are continued for years; his heart is often sickened by hope delayed; and the alternate lights and shadows of the popular countenance, are watched by him with intense anxiety. The shades of night in vain invite him to repose: he pillows his head, but his busy mind scorns to rest; new designs are formed for the ensuing day, and fancy builds her tower to the skies. At length the crisis is at hand, the day comes which decides his contest with fortune, and the sun sets upon prostrated hopes and visions of greatness dispelled. But let us assume that his efforts and toils have eventuated in success, that he has seized the gorgeous prize with which ambition lured him. Has he found what he sought? Let those who have occupied posts most eminent for honour and dignity, reply. They will say, that elevated station has its peculiar cares and perplexities; that it is incumbered with conflicting and irreconcilable claims preferred by friends, each of whom being the self-constituted judge of his own merits, does not willingly yield to his rival; while enemies, rendered more embittered by disappointment, are watchful to mark and expose the slightest aberration from duty, and to impute dishonourable and degrading motives to actions prompted by an honest regard for the public weal. They will confess that the charms of their station appeared far more enchanting when viewed in the distance; that possession has robbed it of its glorious hues, and that disappointment and satiety have supplanted the eagerness and novelty of enjoyment.

But, it may be asked, is the votary of science shielded from the piercings of disappointment's thorn? It is not necessary for our purpose to contend that he is exempted from the com-

mon lot of humanity; but we do contend, that his pursuits are far more ennobling to the mind and heart, and place his happiness much more within his own control, than those which we have reviewed, and which usually excite, in a much higher degree, the admiration of the world. Though his ear be not greeted with the loud huzzas of an applauding people, yet he has his joys which are not the less permanent, on account of their being more placid and serene. The successful solution of a difficult problem in mathematics, caused Archimedes to exclaim with rapture, "Eureka! Eureka!" and his subsequent reflections upon this triumph of intellect, must have been far more delightful, than the conqueror's recollections of the battle-field, strewn with the dead and dying, with all its dismal train of weeping widows and bereaved orphans. But is the fame of the warrior or statesman, more enduring than that of the poet or philosopher? Will Horace or Virgil sink into forgetfulness, sooner than their master, the imperial Augustus? or rather, will not the Emperor be indebted for an immortality of fame to the humbler toils of the poet?—When Horace exclaimed with prophetic rapture—

"—————Me peritus
Disceet Iber, Rhodanique potor,"

how would he have exulted, could he have foreseen that here, in a world then unknown, he would have been so universally read and admired; that in *this spot*, where the wild beast of the forest had his lair, and creation slept undisturbed by the voice of civilized man, a temple of science would have been reared, in which he would have occupied so conspicuous a niche.

If we compare, in relation to their usefulness to their fellow men, the warrior and the philosopher, how much more worthy is the latter, of our love and veneration. The philosopher looks upon creation with a desire to ascertain its author and its end; nought escapes his observation and reflection: in the dew drop that sparkles on the spray, as well as in the immense ocean that surrounds the globe, he perceives the design of an all-wise and omnipotent Being. His mighty mind is not bounded by the world he inhabits; "he looks through

nature, up to nature's God;" in the ardour of his pursuit, he visits other worlds, and communes with the heavenly intelligence that moves them in their "circling orbs." He sees every where the manifested hand of Deity, and, lost in amazement at the stupendous power and infinite wisdom which even the feeble light of human science reveals to him, he involuntarily exclaims with the royal psalmist, "Lord, what is man, that thou art mindful of him, or the son of man that thou regardest him." His reflections lead him to self contemplation, to the study of man, as a being endowed with glorious faculties, a living temple in which a spirit dwells—a spirit whose desires extend far beyond the brief space of time allotted to the existence of the body, and is ever busy in devising plans for being remembered in future ages. He feels within him a monitor which suggests, in "a still small voice," but in a language not to be misunderstood, that he is accountable for his conduct to some tribunal, which does not derive its authority from man. The example of the Deity, to him so sensibly displaying benevolence in all his works, the internal joy which he derives from doing good, and the misery consequent upon doing evil, all admonish him, that good will towards his fellow-men is enjoined upon him by a law of his nature. And has this law, he inquires, (unlike all others,) no sanction? Is this high behest of Deity, which is written upon the Heavens as it were with sun-beams, and inscribed upon the heart of man by the finger of his Creator, to be violated with impunity? The proud oppressor of his fellow-man, he who imbrues his hand in his brother's blood, and consumes in luxury and prodigality, the bread of the widow and orphan, often mocks the imbecility of human justice, or shoves by its arm with "gilded hand." Shall he make no atonement hereafter? Appeal to the wretch himself, and he must confess, that, oft at midnight's dreary hour, he feels the power of the world to come. It is not in human sophistry always to delude, and even gold cannot bribe his conscience to grant him repose. If these pursuits thus lead us to a knowledge of the Deity and ourselves, how vastly more important are they to mankind, than all those which

terminate with mortal life, and are buried with us in the grave of oblivion.

But, when we moreover consider, what essential aid the cause of revealed Religion has received from learning, how nobly it has sustained the cause of the Redeemer in every age and in every clime; how its polished shafts have flown to the succour of the Herald of the Cross, we find renewed sources of admiration and delight. An attempt to do justice to the subject in this point of view, would more become one who fills the hallowed office, and sustains the venerated character of the head of this Institution, than the individual who now addresses you.

Having thus essayed to exhibit, in some of its more prominent features, the paramount utility of knowledge properly applied, as regards man individually, I will, with the indulgence of my audience, direct their attention to its importance to society, or to man in a social state. If ever there was a time when nations were governed by mere force and power, that time has long since gone by: men are now governed by *opinion*, it is this that sustains equally the throne and the curule chair. It is this persuasion of the mind that pre-eminently sustains all free governments. The remark, perhaps, may be justified, that of all the nations of the Earth, these United States are more indebted for their present enviable political condition, to that general diffusion of intelligence, and that spirit of enquiry into the principles of government, which, in their colonial state, prevailed among the people. The operations of government were watched with a jealous eye; they had the learning requisite to know, and the independence necessary to assert, their rights. The memorials, documents, and state papers of the revolution, evince vigorous and cultivated intellect, extensive research, and deep conversation with the ablest jurists and political writers. Though Hampden and Sidney were covered by the clods of the valley, their mantles had fallen upon Adams and Jefferson, and the fire of their zeal and energy had not waned in brilliancy and fervour by its transmission across the broad Atlantic.

The attentive reader of English history cannot avoid remarking the similarity, in many respects, between the revolution of 1688, in England, and our own. In both, the objects at *first* avowed were the same, the redress of grievances, committed under colour of law; and the vindication and establishment of rights claimed as constitutional. The same doctrines were declared by the eminent statesmen who conducted these mighty operations, and the same authorities appealed to for support. The whole controversy, in England, resolved itself into a question, involving the rights and powers of the people to participate in remodelling their form of government; and by the assembling of a convention, which was supposed and intended to represent all the people of England, and by the resolutions of that convention recognizing an "original contract" between the ruler and the governed, the advocates of free government had established a principle, which was well calculated to preserve civil liberty in health and vigour.

But the American revolution may be traced to a higher source: it was a scion of a more robust and hardy tree: its germ may be discovered in that uncompromising spirit that prompted Hampden to resist the payment of a trifling imposition, which he deemed arbitrary and illegal; in that fortitude and energy which conducted to these shores, men who preferred a dreary wilderness, and all its horrors, with civil and religious liberty, to all the comforts and joys of civilized life, without them.

At this distant day, enjoying, as we do, the blessings of plenteousness, and the security of peace and freedom, under a mild government, in which we all participate, our imagination can with difficulty be roused to a just view of the sacrifices which our ancestors endured to attain them. Famine and the tomahawk combined in carrying on the work of desolation and misery; and often would the happy wife and mother, who had caressed her smiling babes when she retired to rest, be wakened by the terrific war-whoop, and find herself widowed, childless and captive. For many years, the colonies, struggling on through a feeble and perilous

infancy, found ample employment in defending their homes and firesides against the incursions of the savage foe; and when at length they attained a degree of strength sufficient to enable them to stand alone, the Legislature of the mother country undertook to prescribe their path and guide their steps. They were considered as members of the Empire, for the purpose of being governed, but not for the purpose of participating in the powers of government: they were made the subjects of laws, in the enactment of which their voice was not heard; and the victims of a policy, which sought, by artificial means, to build up the prosperity of Britain, by a selfish monopoly and direction of their trade and resources. The issue of the controversy which arose, is known to the world, and affords an instructive admonition to all rulers, who, in the exercise of power, are prone to forget right.

As North Carolinians, we may indulge the honest and commendable pride, that the citizens of our own state were the first to abjure all political connexion with their oppressors, and to proclaim independence, pledging for its support, in language *since* become hallowed, their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honour.

On the territory of our state, under the auspices of Sir Walter Raleigh, in 1584, the standard of England was first planted in American soil, and the first attempt made to found her Empire; and on her territory, in 1775, was the flag of American Independence first unfurled.

The termination of the war of the revolution, though it left our country victorious in the field, yet placed her in an attitude of great political delicacy and peril.

The articles of confederation only bound the states together in their sovereign capacities; and the acts or resolutions of the old Congress only operated upon the states by requiring them to fulfil their engagements. These requisitions were often ineffectual; many of the states were tardy in complying with their federal duties, and the delinquency of one frequently afforded a pretext or excuse for delay and omission on the part of another. The federal treasury was empty; public credit was destroyed; the soldiers who had achieved the

revolution were beggared by success, and complained loudly and bitterly of the ingratitude of their country. Some of the states had adopted conflicting regulations of commerce, others were disputing about their boundaries. Jealousies and animosities had arisen: the heart of the patriot had well nigh sunk within him, and the enemies of freedom were already exulting at the prospect of disunion and its necessary horrors. To avert the portending storm, a convention was assembled, of the most tried and eminent sages and patriots of the land, who, with the Father of his country at their head, framed, and recommended for adoption, the present federal constitution. This constitution was submitted to conventions, elected by the people in each of the states, and was successively adopted by all of them.

It has been sometimes remarked, that our state was among the last to adopt this constitution. By recurring to the debates of her convention, it will be seen that her delay arose from motives which originated in the jealousy of freemen, and highly exalt her character for political sagacity and foresight; that in fact her delay did not arise from a want of attachment to the union, or a deep sense of its necessity, but from a desire to have the constitution so modified, as would, in her opinion, secure a more lasting union. Her attachment to the union was strikingly manifested by her final adoption of the constitution, notwithstanding her honest objections, and before the amendments which she deemed essential had been incorporated into that instrument—while the subsequent ratification of several of the amendments which she proposed, fully justified her scruples and delay.

It may be remarked, too, that they are not always the most prompt and faithful in fulfilling obligations, who are most ready to contract them, and although our state may have been among the last to ratify the constitution as it was submitted to her, yet to preserve and protect and defend it, to manifest good faith and loyalty in the fulfilment of federal duties, she has always been among the first.

To us, upon whom has descended this rich inheritance, the fruit of the blood and toils of our ancestors, is more especially

imposed the sacred duty of transmitting it, unimpaired and unincumbered, to our children.

If experience shall discover defects in it, the wisdom of its framers has provided a mode of amendment by which they can be supplied or removed: it contains within itself a principle of renovation, by which new life and energy may be imparted to it.

If doubts arise as to its construction, a high tribunal, guarded from all improper influence, as far as human wisdom can shield it, has been provided to solve these doubts. It is the just boast of the American system of polity, that the judiciary is elevated to the rank of a co-ordinate department of government; its independence is thus firmly established, and all temptation to deviate from the path of its exalted duty is removed or prevented. While adverting to the federal judiciary, I trust I may be pardoned for directing your attention for a moment to that eminent man, who has now for thirty years presided over its highest tribunal, and to whose lot it has fallen, more than to that of any other man, to interpret authoritatively the provisions of the federal constitution. Questions, most momentous and most embarrassing, have been solved by his gifted intellect, as by intuition; and the arguments by which his decisions have been sustained, while they are intelligible to the meanest capacity, are such as to reflect honour on the highest intellect. Though contending politicians may not always acquiesce in his conclusions, yet none can doubt the strength and depth and clearness of his mind, or the uprightness, integrity, and purity of the Judge. It happened to the author of these fugitive remarks, in company with a distinguished citizen of this state, in the summer of 1825, to visit the late Ex-President, John Adams, who, though bending under the weight of four score and ten years, yet retained much of that dignity of demeanour, eloquence of expression, and vigour of intellect, which so eminently characterized the great Orator of the old Congress. The name of Chief-Justice Marshall was mentioned, and he seemed "fired at the sound." "There is (says he) no act of my life, on which I reflect with more pleasure, than the

“appointment of John Marshall as Chief-Justice of the United States. I have given to my country, a Judge equal to a Hale, a Holt, or a Mansfield.”

To resume my subject, we have, then, a constitution, formed by the wisest heads, and purest hearts; by those who had been tried long and severely; who knew well the mischief, and have provided the remedy. It comes recommended to us by every thing that can command veneration, and confidence, and love. With reference to this great family compact, we may all exclaim, in the language of an illustrious patriot and statesman, “We are all federalists, we are all republicans.”

The main design of this instrument was to form a general government which should be intrusted with the exercise of those powers which the members of the confederacy could not separately exercise, without disturbing the harmony, or injuriously affecting the interest of the others: the great powers of making war, forming treaties, regulating commerce, and conducting the foreign intercourse of the Union, are of this class, and accordingly were confided to the federal government.

The exercise of any power by this government, should be deduced from the charter by which it was created; but in this deduction, the reasoning of politicians, whose integrity and intelligence cannot be doubted, essentially varies, and their conclusions, on many important subjects, are utterly irreconcilable. These different versions of the same instrument, involve considerations and consequences deeply interesting to our country, and hostile to her peace. Even now it would seem that our Union is menaced, and language is uttered which must grieve the heart, not only of the American patriot, but of the philanthropist and lover of freedom in every clime.

It is very far from the intention of your addresser, to impute disloyalty to the constitution, to all who utter the language of passion, much less to those who, sincerely believing that its letter and spirit have both been violated, remonstrate with boldness and feeling. It is well known, that some who thus feel, and thus speak, are men, high minded men, who

soar above the grovelling considerations of self, and who have proved their devotion to their country's weal, by conduct not to be mistaken. But admitting that a wrong construction of the constitution has prevailed and been enforced, is there no redress within its pale? Cannot patriotism, and intelligence combined, devise a remedy? When, in 1798, the passage of the Alien and Sedition laws fearfully agitated our country, the patriotic and enlightened statesmen of those days appealed to their sister states, and a revolution was effected in public opinion, by the arms of reason; the obnoxious laws were repealed, and harmony was restored to the Union. The constitution empowers the Legislatures of two-thirds of the states to require a convention to be called, for the purpose of modifying it; and surely no friend of his country can hesitate between this appeal, and another, of a character too direful to be thought of. If, then, all the departments of the federal government should concur in sustaining a law, which is deemed by the Legislature or people of a state, to be a palpable infraction of the constitution, even this would not justify the adoption of the "last resource." There is still an appeal to Cæsar—the sovereign power, the constituents of the federal government, or in the language of Mr. Jefferson, to their "employers?" Who are the employers of the federal government—surely not any one state, nor the people of any one state. This government, we are told by one of the purest and most enlightened of the sages who formed it, (the venerated Madison,) is national in many of its features. In one of his essays recommending its adoption, he says, "The House of Representatives will derive its power from the people of America, and the people will be represented in the same proportion, and on the same principle, as they are in a Legislature of a particular state. So far the government is national, not federal."* If a majority of the people and of the states of the Union, by their representatives, concur in an exposition of the constitution which any one state may deem an infraction of the funda-

* See the Federalist, No. xxxix.

mental charter, I will not say that the constitution can be thus enlarged or diminished; but surely, in every such case, the protesting state might yield obedience, without compromising her rights, until this construction could be reviewed and settled, either by the judiciary, or the proper constituents of the government; and it would seem that those constituents who, by the provisions of the constitution, could grant the power, would also be competent to settle, definitively, any controversy respecting the nature and extent of powers already granted, or whether any power claimed, has, or has not been granted.

The sages, founders of the republic, certainly could not contemplate that the "ultima ratio" should be resorted to, to explain and vindicate the meaning of this charter of our liberties. If this dire calamity should befall us, we may well fear that the wrath of offended heaven has fallen upon us, and that we are maddened for destruction.* While we concede much to honest intentions, and to zeal, pure, though intemperate, it is not to be disguised, that this disease of the body politic, has lured that bird of ill omen, the demagogue, to make his baleful appearance. While the noble ship, obedient to her helmsman, gallantly ploughs her way through the waves to her destined port, the ravenous monsters of the deep are left unheeded behind; but when overtaken by the tempest, she becomes crippled, and unable to wing her flight; or when visited by pestilence, the "sullen wave" receives the "frequent corse," then the ravenous shark is her constant attendant, and fattens on her wretchedness. So does the demagogue grow into bloated greatness upon his country's woe.

But there is a redeeming spirit in the intelligence of our people; and there is a spirit which can bid the troubled waves "be still." Let us hope, rather, for the interposition of both, than despair of the Republic. With respect to our own state, if the emergency should require it, she will boldly vindicate her loyalty to the Union; she will call upon her sons to remember the glory of their sires, to shrink not in the day of

* "Quem deus vult perdere, prius dementat."

peril from the defence of that flag, which has so long waved over them, and secured to them every political blessing.

And our University, founded by our ancestors to diffuse through our country that knowledge which is the life of liberty, and which they regarded as one of the main bulwarks of freedom, will call upon her alumni to vindicate her maternal care, and show themselves too wise to be deluded, and too virtuous to be corrupted. But it cannot be that any portion of this confederacy, when duly enlightened, will persist in a continued career of injustice to another. We are informed, by the highest authority, that the constitution is the result of a spirit of mutual forbearance and concession; let it be but administered in that spirit, and discord will cease, and the now-jarring chords will be attuned to symphony.

It is then, at last, to the intelligence and virtue of the people, that we must look for political salvation. I cannot conclude this part of my address, without directing the attention of this assembly to the emphatic and admonitory language of the Father of his country, in his Farewell Address to his fellow-citizens:

“Promote, then, (say he) as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge.”
 “In proportion as the structure of government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened.”

As I am now speaking in the presence of those to whose care is committed the momentous task of rearing the youth of our country, I trust I may be indulged in making a few suggestions on the subject, which I do with great deference. Constituted as we are, any system of education must be defective, which does not embrace in its plan a discipline of the body, which does not enjoin exercise and temperance—these are what may be termed bodily virtues, which require their share of culture and patronage.—Many of our noblest qualities depend greatly for their perfection on the health of the body—the “mens sana in corpore sano,” is greatly to be desired.

The Persians are highly commended by Xenophon, for training their youth in habits of bodily exercise and temperance, and inuring them to trials of fortitude.

The ancient Greeks and Romans devoted much time and care to athletic exercises; and to the discipline and courage thence acquired, may be ascribed, in no small degree, their military success.

The modern systems of education seem to err on the other extreme, and not duly to appreciate the intimate union and sympathy between mind and body. Too often do we see the votary of science depressed by debility and disease, and health and cheerfulness of temper unnecessarily sacrificed to the attainment of learning. While the rays of science illuminate the mind, the hectic glow of consumption's hidden fire, oft inflames the cheek of her imprudent votary.

Another common error, which I would venture to remark, is the frequent confounding of learning with education. Many persons store their minds with a varied mass of knowledge, where it lies in chaos and disorder, useless to its possessor and the world, and are deemed well educated: whereas, the proper and most valued effect of education, is to *discipline* the mind, and fit it by its habits for the acquisition of knowledge.

The mind itself is to be cultivated, and enlarged, and its powers and capacities increased. The learning which we acquire at the schools is not intended, nor supposed to be all that is necessary for our useful action in life: here we merely lay the basis, upon which we are hereafter to rear a superstructure, whose design or model is often unknown. In a country like ours, so vast in territory, so diversified in climate and resources, man pursues his happiness in various ways, stimulated by that encouragement which a free government gives to talent and enterprise. Every walk of life is open to the aspiring, and perseverance and honesty rarely fail of eventual success. Here, more than in any other country, man may be considered as "the architect of his own fortune." Those who rely upon intellectual employments for advancement, must not suppose that they have chosen a life of ease and indulgence.

Indolence is fatal to mental energy, and neglect will cause the finest gold to become dim.

The hill of science must be climbed by persevering toil, and labour itself must be pleasant* to the pilgrim who wends his way to its sun-lit summit.

On this eminence, the citadel of Liberty is situate—from hence, the distant approach of every foe may be descried, and due preparation made for defence.

On this eminence, too, Religion has erected an altar, and invoked from the skies, a yet more glorious liberty; a liberty

Unsung

By poets, and by Senators unpraised,
Which monarchs cannot grant, nor all the powers
Of Earth and Hell confederate take away:
A liberty, which persecution, fraud,
Oppression, prisons have no power to bind,
Which whoso tastes can be enslaved no more.

* Labor ipse voluptas.



